

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 19, 2003, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are active in this application, of which claims 1, 4 and 10 are independent. The Office Action indicates that claims 10-25 are allowed, and claims 4-9 are objected to but would be allowable if presented in independent form.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,292,239 issued to Nagamura, *et al.* ("Nagamura") in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-133401 issued to Susumi, *et al.* ("Susumi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites "wherein the second frame has a groove formed on a side facing the light guiding plate for receiving the light source". In this regard, as the Examiner admitted, Nagamura fails to teach the first frame and the second frame, and, hence would fails to teach or suggest the groove formed on a side of the second frame, as recited in claim 1.

Susumi teaches a lamp frame 46 that is combined with a supporting frame 24. However, as shown in Fig. 4, a lamp 32 is attached to the lamp frame 46 from above and mounted on the second reflection plate 27. There is no groove formed in the lamp frame for receiving the lamp 32. Thus, Susumi fails to cure the deficiency from the teachings from Nagamura.

Since none of the cited references teaches or suggests "the second frame has a groove formed on a side facing the light guiding plate for receiving the light source", the asserted combination of the references would not have obviously resulted in the invention recited in claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Naguyama and Susumi. Claims 2 and 3 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1-3 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

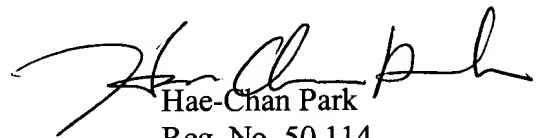
In this response, claim 4 has been amended to present in independent form by incorporating all the limitations of its base claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that claim 4 and its dependent claims 5-6 are patentable. Claim 4 has been further amended solely for better wording and correcting informalities therein.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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